

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2515**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin**

February 23, 2006

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An act to add Section 25401.9 to the Public Resources Code, to add Section 2714.5 to the Public Utilities Code, and to add Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 560) to Division 1 of the Water Code, relating to water conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2515, as introduced, Ruskin. Water conservation.

(1) Existing law requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, after one or more public hearings, to take specified action to reduce the wasteful, uneconomic, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. Existing law requires the commission, by January 1, 2004, to amend specified regulations to require that residential clothes washers manufactured on or after January 1, 2007, be at least as water efficient as commercial clothes washers, and to take certain other related action.

This bill would require the commission to establish water efficiency standards for residential and commercial water-using appliances and other products. The bill would require the commission to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report that sets forth recommendations regarding the utilization of water use ratings for those appliances and products.

(2) Existing law authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to regulate public utilities, including water corporations.

This bill would require the commission to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report that describes and recommends an accounting method for evaluating the direct financial costs and benefits of water

conservation and efficiency programs to customers of water corporations subject to the jurisdiction of the commission. The bill would require the commission to include in the report recommendations with regard to the implementation of one or more water conservation and efficiency programs.

(3) Under existing law, state bond funds are allocated for a broad range of water projects and programs.

This bill would prohibit the allocation of state bond funds to a water supplier for a water project or program unless the supplier has adopted specified best management practices.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 25401.9 is added to the Public  
2 Resources Code, to read:

3 25401.9. (a) The commission shall establish water-efficiency  
4 standards for residential and commercial water-using appliances  
5 and other products.

6 (b) The commission shall prepare and submit to the  
7 Legislature a report that sets forth recommendations regarding  
8 the utilization of water use ratings for appliances and products  
9 described in subdivision (a).

10 SEC. 2. Section 2714.5 is added to the Public Utilities Code,  
11 to read:

12 2714.5. (a) The commission shall prepare and submit to the  
13 Legislature a report that describes and recommends an  
14 accounting method for evaluating the direct financial costs and  
15 benefits of water conservation and efficiency programs to  
16 customers of water corporations.

17 (b) The report described in subdivision (a) shall include  
18 recommendations with regard to the implementation of one or  
19 more water conservation and efficiency programs.

20 SEC. 3. Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 560) is added  
21 to Division 1 of the Water Code, to read:

CHAPTER 11. STATE BOND FUNDS

1  
2  
3 560. No state bond funds may be allocated to a water supplier  
4 for a water project or program unless the supplier has adopted  
5 best management practices in accordance with the  
6 “Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Urban Water  
7 Conservation in California,” as amended or the “Memorandum of  
8 Understanding Regarding Efficient Water Management Practices  
9 by Agricultural Water Suppliers in California,” as amended.

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